Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-68. (Cancelled)

69. (Currently Amended) A screening method of selecting a compound or extract for manufacturing a topical composition for reducing storage of triglycerides in adipocytes, ~~comprising screening at least a compound which is potentially active in the field of lipolysis~~ said method comprising a cell-free *in vitro* test of the capacity of ~~the screened~~ said compound or extract to inhibit ~~the~~ lipoprotein lipase (LPL) activity by quantifying inhibition of the release of fatty acid from a substrate comprising a fatty acid part, ~~to identify at least a compound having a slimming activity~~ to identify whether said compound or extract inhibits said LPL activity and in case of identified inhibition of LPL activity by said compound or extract, selecting said compound or extract for manufacturing a topical composition for reducing the storage of triglycerides.

70. (Currently Amended) An *in vitro* screening method for identifying a compound or extract for manufacturing a topical composition for inhibiting lipoprotein lipase (LPL) thereby limiting uptake of fatty acids by adipocytes ~~The method according to claim 69~~, wherein said method comprising the steps of:

a) preparing a substrate, wherein the substrate comprises at least one triacylglycerol;

b) placing the substrate in contact with at least

i.) said ~~the~~ compound or extract ~~which potentially inhibits lipoprotein lipase activity (potentially active substance)~~,

ii.) a lipoprotein lipase,

iii.) a cofactor of lipoprotein lipase,

iv.) a fatty acid-acceptor substance or a fatty acid-sequestering substance which ~~prevents~~ avoids or limits the blockage of the enzymatic activity of the lipoprotein lipase

for a period of time sufficient for releasing at least in part non-esterifed fatty acid from the triacylglycerol; and

c) upon completion of step b), determining the capacity of inhibition of the release from the substrate of the non-esterifed fatty acid resulting from the activity of the lipoprotein lipase, under the action of ~~the potentially active substance~~ said compound or extract and in case of identified inhibition of LPL activity by said compound or extract, selecting said compound or extract as a compound or extract for manufacturing a topical composition for limiting the storage of triglycerides.

71. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 70, wherein step c) comprises the monitoring of the release of the non-esterified fatty acid using an enzymatic technique on the reaction medium of step b) and step c).

72. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 70, which comprises a further step of:

d) comparing said determined capacity of inhibition to a control, wherein the control is the capacity of inhibition of LPL activity obtained in the absence of the ~~potentially active substance~~ said compound or extract tested.

73. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 70, which comprises a further step of:

d) comparing said determined capacity of inhibition to a control, wherein the control is the capacity of inhibition of LPL activity obtained by a method comprising the steps:

a2) preparing a substrate, wherein the substrate comprises at least one triacylglycerol;

b2) placing the substrate in contact with at least

i.) an inhibitor known to be active in the field of lipolysis,

ii.) a lipoprotein lipase,

iii.) a cofactor of lipoprotein lipase,

iv.) a fatty acid-acceptor substance or a fatty acid-sequestering substance which ~~prevents~~ avoids or limits the blockage of the enzymatic activity of the lipoprotein lipase for a period of time sufficient for releasing, at least in part, fatty acid from the triacylglycerol; and

c2) upon completion of step b2), determining the capacity of inhibition of the release from the substrate of the fatty acid resulting from the activity of the lipoprotein lipase, under the action of the inhibitor known to be active in the field of lipolysis.

74. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 73, wherein the known inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of protamine sulfate, protamine, and sodium pyrophosphate.

75. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 74, wherein the cofactor of lipoprotein lipase is of human origin.

76. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 70, wherein the fatty acid-acceptor substance or fatty acid-sequestering substance comprises bovine or human albumin.

77. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 70, wherein the lipoprotein lipase is obtained from bovine milk or bacteria.

78. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 70, wherein the triacylglycerol comprises an acyl part which is obtained from a long chain fatty acid comprising 12 to 30 carbon atoms.

79. - 81. (Cancelled)

82. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 70, wherein the triacylglycerol comprises triolein.

83. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 70, wherein said step b) of placing the substrate in contact comprises:

a) incubating the lipoprotein lipase for a determined period of time in the presence of said compound or extract ~~the substance which is potentially active in the field of lipolysis~~;

b) incubating the substrate in the presence of the lipoprotein lipase cofactor; and

c) incubating the mixture of the substrate/lipoprotein lipase cofactor in the presence of the lipoprotein lipase and said compound or extract ~~the substance which is potentially active in the field of lipolysis~~.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, wherein the lipoprotein lipase cofactor comprises apolipoprotein C-II.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein the enzymatic technique is observed by colorimetry for obtaining an optical density value at a wavelength determined by the particular enzymatic technique utilized, and wherein comparing said determined capacity of inhibition to a control comprises comparing the optical density value obtained at the wavelength.

86. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 70, wherein the enzymatic technique is observed by colorimetry for obtaining an optical density value at 550nm and inhibition is determined by the optical density value at 550nm which expresses a decrease in the ~~fatty acid synthesized~~ non-esterified fatty acids released in the reaction medium, which is compared with the optical density value at 550nm with the control, and the activity of said compound or extract ~~substance~~ tested is determined by the observation of the inhibition effected by said substance tested with respect to the control.

87. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 69, wherein ~~the~~ said extract ~~potentially active substance~~ is selected from the group consisting of an extract of fucus, an extract of dulse palmaria palmata, an extract of wheat protein, an extract of spiruline, an extract of honeysuckle, an extract of St. John's wort, an extract of rice protein, an extract of liana, an extract of potato, an extract of shiitake, an extract of fresh salmon, an extract of pumpkin, and an extract of lemon.

88. - 90. (Cancelled)

91. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 70, wherein said extract is selected from the group consisting of an aqueous extract of liana Uncaria tomentosa, an alcoholic extract of liana Uncaria tomentosa, an aqueous alcoholic extract of liana Uncaria tomentosa, an aqueous glycolic extract of liana Uncaria tomentosa, and a glycolic extract of liana Uncaria tomentosa.

92. (Currently Amended) A screening method for selecting a compound or extract for manufacturing a topical composition for decreasing the fatty deposits or decreasing the rate of fatty deposits *in vivo*, ~~comprising screening at least a compound which potentially active in the field of lipolysis~~ said method comprising a cell-free *in vitro* test of the capacity of ~~the screened~~ said compound or extract to inhibit ~~the~~ LPL activity ~~to identify at least a compound for diminishing or slowing down the fatty deposits~~ by determining the capacity of inhibition of the release, from a substrate comprising a fatty acid part, of the fatty acid resulting from the activity of the LPL, under the action of said compound or extract to identify whether said compound or extract inhibits said LPL activity and in case of identified inhibition of LPL activity by said compound or extract, selecting said compound or extract for manufacturing a topical composition.

93. (Currently Amended) A screening method for selecting a compound or extract for manufacturing a topical composition for increasing blood microcirculation and a composition for improving the appearance of the skin or for diminishing the ugly "orange peel" appearance, said method ~~comprising screening at least a compound which potentially active in the field of lipolysis~~ comprising a cell-free *in vitro* test of the capacity of said ~~the screened~~ compound or extract to inhibit ~~the~~ LPL activity ~~to identify at least a compound for increasing blood microcirculation~~ by determining the capacity of inhibition of the release, from a substrate comprising a triacylglycerol having a fatty acid part, of the fatty acid resulting from the activity of the LPL, under the action of said compound or extract to identify whether said compound or extract inhibits said LPL activity and in case of identified inhibition of LPL activity by said compound or extract, selecting said compound or extract for manufacturing said topical composition.

94. (Cancelled)

95. (New) A screening method of selecting a compound or extract for manufacturing a topical composition for reducing storage of triglycerides in adipocytes, said method comprising a cell-free *in vitro* test of the capacity of said compound or extract to inhibit lipoprotein lipase (LPL) activity by quantifying inhibition of the release of fatty acid from a substrate comprising a triacylglycerol comprising a fatty acid part by monitoring of the release of the non-esterified fatty acid using an enzymatic technique on the reaction medium, said enzymatic technique being observed by colorimetry for obtaining an optical density value at a wavelength determined by the particular enzymatic technique utilized, to identify whether said compound or extract inhibits said LPL activity and in case of identified inhibition of LPL activity by said compound or extract, selecting said compound or extract for manufacturing a topical composition for reducing the storage of triglycerides.

96. (New) The screening method of claims 104, wherein said triacylglycerol comprises an acyl part comprising 12 to 30 carbon atoms.

97. (New) A screening method for selecting a compound or extract for manufacturing a topical composition for increasing blood microcirculation, said method comprising a cell-free *in vitro* test of the capacity of said compound or extract to inhibit lipoprotein lipase (LPL) activity by determining the capacity of inhibition of the release, from a substrate comprising a triacylglycerol comprising a fatty acid part, of the fatty acid resulting from the activity of the LPL, under the action of said compound or extract by monitoring of the release of the non-esterified fatty acid using an enzymatic technique on the reaction medium, said enzymatic technique being observed by colorimetry for obtaining an optical density value at a wavelength determined by the particular enzymatic technique utilized, to identify whether said compound or extract inhibits said LPL activity and in case of identified inhibition of LPL activity by said compound or extract, selecting said compound or extract for manufacturing a topical composition for increasing blood microcirculation.

98. (New) The screening method of claims 108, wherein said triacylglycerol comprises an acyl part comprising 12 to 30 carbon atoms.